

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Third Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.8% (922) reside in the Third Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (175) of Third Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.8% of admissions from the Third Essex Representative District were male and 25.2% were female.
- Over 59.7% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 81.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 2.5% were black non-Latino, 13.7% were Latino, 0.2% were Asian, and 2.5% were other racial categories.
- 58.1% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 16.2% were married, and 16.4% reported not to be married now.
- 32.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.8% completed high school, and 16.4% had more than high school education.
- 39.8% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 10.2% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.5% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Third Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Third Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	764	582	252	244	194	237	188
FY '96	746	566	214	212	148	237	185
FY '97	733	531	216	167	133	233	198
FY '98	692	490	212	141	88	236	195
FY '99	832	578	268	216	146	347	277
FY '00	877	617	263	200	139	290	216
FY '01	922	669	279	176	90	283	208

- Since dropping in FY 1998, residents of Third Essex Representative District reported an increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1998 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 36%, marijuana by 31%, cocaine by 24%, crack by 2%, and heroin use by 20%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Essex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	46.8%	29.1%	15.2%	3.0%	2.5%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, marijuana as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin, cocaine and crack was lower within your District.